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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**
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11 BLACKSTONE INTERNATIONAL, LTD., a
12 Maryland corporation,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, a
16 Washington corporation,

17 Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:20-cv-0964-TSZ

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:

Friday, May 24, 2024

18 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

19 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or
20 private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby
21 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties
22 acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket
23 protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public
24 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential
25 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file
26 confidential information under seal.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

- 1 -

CASE NO. 2:20-CV-00964-TSZ

1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
 3 produced or otherwise exchanged: (1) Trade secret information, as defined in the Uniform Trade
 4 Secrets Act, RCW 19.108,010; (2) Confidential, proprietary, or competitively-sensitive business
 5 information pertaining to manufacturing, importing, pricing, sales, suppliers, planned or
 6 prospective business opportunities or markets, and/or customers; (3) Personal information, where
 7 disclosure of that information would violate a person’s privacy, including, but not limited to, any
 8 information contained in employee personnel files; and (4) Confidential financial information
 9 (including, but not limited to, projections, tax returns, financial statements, banking records,
 10 cryptocurrency exchange records or confirmations, brokerage records, and electronic data
 11 containing financial information).

12 “Highly Confidential - Attorneys’ Eyes Only” means information or documents that are
 13 extremely commercially sensitive or proprietary and which could be used by a direct competitor
 14 to gain a business (as opposed to solely a legal) advantage, the disclosure of which to another Party
 15 or non-party would demonstrably create a substantial risk of serious harm that could not be avoided
 16 by less restrictive means.

17 3. SCOPE

18 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
 19 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
 20 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
 21 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

22 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
 23 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

24 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

25 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
 26 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,

1 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
2 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
3 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
4 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

5 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
6 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
7 confidential material only to:

8 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
9 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

10 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
11 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
12 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so
13 designated;

14 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
15 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

16 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

17 (e) mediators and their staff;

18 (f) e-discovery and copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in
19 the duplication and/or coding and data storage of confidential material, provided that counsel for
20 the party retaining the e-discovery and copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose
21 any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any
22 confidential material;

23 (g) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
24 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
25 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
26 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must

1 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
2 under this agreement;

3 (h) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
4 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

5 4.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”
6 Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the
7 designating party, a receiving party may disclose any such confidential material only to:

8 (a) the receiving party’s outside counsel of record in this action, as well as
9 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this
10 litigation;

11 (b) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
12 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

13 (c) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

14 (d) mediators and their staff;

15 (e) e-discovery vendors and copy or imaging services retained by counsel to
16 assist in the duplication and/or coding and data storage of confidential material, provided that
17 counsel for the party retaining the e-discovery and copy or imaging service instructs the service
18 not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and
19 copies of any confidential material;

20 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
21 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
22 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
23 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
24 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
25 under this agreement;

26 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a

1 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

2 4.4 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
3 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
4 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
5 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
6 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
7 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
8 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
9 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
10 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
11 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
12 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
13 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
14 the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

15 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

16 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
17 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
18 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
19 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
20 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
21 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
22 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
24 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
25 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
26 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

1 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
2 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
3 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

4 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
5 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
6 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
7 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

8 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
9 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
10 the designating party must affix the word or phrase "CONFIDENTIAL" "HIGHLY
11 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY," as applicable, to each page that contains
12 confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection,
13 the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate
14 markings in the margins).

15 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
16 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
17 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
18 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within 30 (thirty) days after receiving
19 the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
20 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information
21 at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

22 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
23 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
24 or phrase "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY,"
25 as applicable. If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the
26 producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

1 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
2 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's
3 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
4 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
5 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

7 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
8 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
9 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
10 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
11 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
12 original designation is disclosed.

13 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
14 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
15 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
16 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
17 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
18 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
19 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

20 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
21 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
22 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
23 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
24 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
25 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
26 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

1 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 2 LITIGATION

3 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
 4 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party
 5 must:

6 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 7 subpoena or court order;

8 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 9 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
 10 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

11 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 12 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

13 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

14 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
 15 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
 16 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
 17 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
 18 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
 19 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
 20 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

21 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
 22 MATERIAL

23 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
 24 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
 25 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
 26 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or

1 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
2 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

3 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

4 Within 60 (sixty) days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each
5 receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies,
6 extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of
7 destruction.

8 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
9 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
10 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
11 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

12 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
13 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

14 11. PRIOR STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDERS

15 In this case, this Stipulated Protective Order supersedes any and all other similar
16 agreements and/or orders entered into by the parties in this litigation or in any related litigation or
17 arbitration.

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD, this date of May 24, 2024.

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3 By: /s/ Christopher M. Huck

4 Christopher M. Huck
(WSBA No. 34104)

5 **Goldfarb & Huck Roth Riojas, PLLC**

6 925 Fourth Avenue, Suite 3950

7 Seattle, WA 98104

8 Phone: 206-492-7393

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10 Attorneys for Plaintiff

11 Blackstone International Ltd.

By: /s/ Frederic G. Ludwig, III

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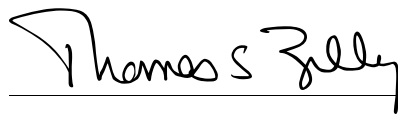
Attorneys for Defendant

Costco Wholesale Corporation

1 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

2 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
3 documents, electronically stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or
4 otherwise, in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or
5 state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those
6 documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other
7 privilege or protection recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum
8 protection allowed by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply.
9 Nothing contained herein is intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review
10 of documents, ESI or information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or
11 segregation of privileged and/or protected information before production. Information produced
12 in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be immediately returned to the
13 producing party.

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15 DATED: May 29, 2024

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19 Thomas S. Zilly
20 United States District Judge
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EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
 issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the
 case of *Blackstone International, Ltd. v. Costco Wholesale Corporation*, Case No. 2:20-cv-00964-
 TSZ, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. I agree to comply with and to be
 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that
 failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I
 solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to
 this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the
 provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____